

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

KEYSTONE WILL PRODUCE JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President announced he will veto the payroll tax extension bill passed by House Republicans due to the inclusion of the Keystone pipeline construction. The President campaigns for jobs, but will sadly veto a jobs bill.

This fall, I was fortunate to visit Alberta, Canada, and witnessed firsthand the environmental safeguards to develop Canadian oil sands. The construction of this environmentally advanced pipeline will create at least 120,000 new American jobs without costing taxpayers a dime and will stimulate our economy.

Walter C. Jones in The Augusta Chronicle reports that refined oil products with no pipeline will be denied to South Carolinians at a north Augusta terminal. With a record unemployment rate of over 8 percent for 34 months and over 13 million Americans looking for jobs, it is very sad the President would veto legislation creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

PRESERVING UASI CAPABILITY GAINS CAUCUS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I rise to express my concern about the direction of the Urban Area Security Initiative program.

UASI was created to develop capabilities to prevent and to respond to attacks and catastrophes in our most vulnerable cities. The program has helped develop joint initiatives among local governments in my community of Buffalo-Niagara. We have an obligation to protect this investment and the capability gains developed across the country. Yet recent drastic cuts in the UASI funding have resulted in the elimination of 32 of the 64 urban areas from the program. That puts the preparedness and security capability gains we've achieved at risk.

In order to raise awareness of this problem, this week I formed the Preserving UASI Capability Gains Caucus with Congressman STEVE STIVERS of Columbus, Ohio. I also introduced legislation to preserve the capability gains achieved by communities like Buffalo that were dropped from the UASI program.

I urge my colleagues who represent UASI communities to join our caucus

so that we can protect our capability gains and ensure our communities are properly secured.

THE PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT BIG GOVERNMENT

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some Americans worry about big labor; others worry about big business. But what really scares most Americans is the massive Federal Government snooping around, meddling and controlling every aspect of people's lives.

According to a Gallup Poll released this week, the overwhelming majority, 64 percent, of those surveyed think that Big Government will be the biggest threat to the country in the future. It's worth noting that about half of those people who participated were Democrats that agreed that Big Government is the problem. No surprise. When I meet with my neighbors in southeast Texas, their message for the Federal Government is clear: back off. Stop saddling expensive, job-killing, and unnecessary regulations on businesses.

The mere phrase, I'm from the Federal Government and I'm here to help you, brings fear and trepidation into the hearts and souls of small business owners and individuals throughout the fruited plain. After all, the Constitution says we the people are to control government, not the other way around. Government should not run roughshod over our personal liberty.

And that's just the way it is.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during this season of giving, when our Nation should be reflecting on the needs of our friends and neighbors who are out of work struggling to provide for their loved ones, this Chamber yesterday voted to cut unemployment benefits for 1 million of our fellow Americans.

The House majority's bill would eliminate several tiers of benefits created under the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, which has provided up to 99 weeks of support for those who lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

If this legislation becomes law, the maximum potential unemployment benefit will fall by 40 weeks. This legislation would also allow States, many of which are struggling to balance their budgets, to reduce the average weekly amount available to beneficiaries. With over 8 percent unemployment, I'm strongly opposed to any reduction in emergency unemployment insurance.

I am a proud supporter, though, of moving the XL pipeline project forward

and supported it in separate legislation. The XL pipeline makes both energy and economic sense for our country, and I hope the administration will find a way to allow the construction to commence in some States while still revisiting the route in Nebraska.

I urge my colleagues to stand in support of the over 13 million Americans looking for work this holiday season and pass a clean extension of the unemployment insurance program.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

(Mr. GRAVES of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give thanks today to my House colleagues, who yesterday, in bipartisan fashion, moved to start construction on the Keystone XL pipeline, because this is truly a shovel-ready project that will provide good jobs and secure energy for Americans.

The Keystone pipeline will create nearly 100,000 private sector jobs once completed—20,000 of those jobs generated just to construct the pipeline, with 50 companies in Georgia benefiting from this. And once it's finished, this pipeline will pump 700,000 gallons of crude oil a day from our friend and neighbor, Canada, a good, reliable, and secure supply of oil.

The environmental impact statements have been completed and the path for the pipeline has been determined. The only thing standing in the way is politics. President Obama has postponed his decision on whether the private sector can build this pipeline until after the next election. If it's good enough after the election, surely it's good enough today.

Good jobs. Secure energy. No cost to the taxpayers. It's a no-brainer.

MAJORITY RISKING TAX CUTS

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the majority unwisely gambled with the economic security of the middle class. They voted on legislation that was designed to fail, fully knowing that it will be dead on arrival in the Senate and vetoed by the President.

By tying the extension of the payroll tax to controversial and unrelated policies, the majority is playing a dangerous game that could result in tax hikes for 160 million workers. Moreover, by attaching the Medicare doc fix to the same divisive policy, they have endangered seniors' access to their doctors.

We must support a clean extension of the payroll tax holiday and the unemployment insurance that is not paid for through increased health care costs for seniors or at the expense of public health. If we fail to pass a clean extension of the payroll tax holiday or unemployment benefits, the average

American family will lose a tax break worth \$1,000 and our economy will lose \$30 billion as the unemployed will lose much needed assistance.

Now is not the time to play risky games with our economy. We must pass a clean extension of the payroll tax and continue assistance for the unemployed.

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SUPPORT THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE PROJECT

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as my colleague from west Georgia, Congressman GRAVES, just said, the House took action yesterday to boost our economy and create jobs. And I stand before you now to implore Senate Democrats and President Obama, follow suit and to support the Keystone pipeline project. The pipeline, which has been delayed for more than 3 years by this administration, would be a critical step towards energy independence and job creation in the United States.

This pipeline would transport 1.4 million barrels of oil per day from Canada down to the gulf coast refineries, drastically reducing our reliance on Middle East imports and create, yes, more than 100,000 jobs nationwide. This does include Georgia, where Keystone fuel would be shipped by existing pipelines to terminals in Atlanta, Rome, Augusta, Athens, as well as to other east coast customers.

The time to act is now, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues in the Senate and President Obama to allow production to begin.

HONORING CAPTAIN JAMES HENRY

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American, fishing Captain James Henry from the town of Mystic, Connecticut. Captain Henry has just published his first book, "In a Fisherman's Language," at the age of 98.

What's even more extraordinary is that Captain Henry was illiterate until the age of 91. But after learning the inspiring story of George Dawson, the grandson of a slave who taught himself to read and write, at the age of 98, Captain Henry began his journey to literacy. A retired East Lyme English teacher and literacy volunteer from eastern Connecticut, Mark Hogan tutored Captain Henry along his journey and helped him edit his book.

"In a Fisherman's Language" artfully weaved together the life of this lobsterman, sharing his stories from his life on his grandfather's farm in Portugal, his work on the boats, a

member of the Connecticut National Guard, a professional boxer, and a ship-fitter at Electric Boat shipyard.

What initially started as a small project has gained international attention. Selling the original 750 copies in just 2 weeks, he's been contacted by film producers, TV stations, and audio book companies, alike, who want to share his story with the world.

It has been quite a long journey from being unable to read and write to being a source of inspiration to young writers and a beacon of hope for those struggling with their own literacy.

I urge my colleagues to read this amazing book, and I salute Captain Henry for his amazing accomplishment.

REGULATIONS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, throughout this year, House Republicans have been fighting for job creation, working to prevent the Federal Government from damaging our economy and job growth.

The present administration has tried to downplay the effect new regulations will have on companies struggling in the weak economy. Today's Wall Street Journal documents efforts of the White House Office on Information and Regulatory Affairs to muddy the waters about regulations.

The official Obama administration compilation of regulations ignores significant institutions such as the National Labor Relations Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission, yet the number of economically significant rules at all stages has risen to 149, a historic high.

Vast sections of industry are waiting to hear how the Federal Government will change the way they have to do business. How on earth can we expect them to hire new workers when they can't plan with this regulatory uncertainty?

The administration can try to manipulate the numbers, but there can be no doubt that the Federal regulatory juggernaut is holding back job growth.

THE PAYROLL TAX CUT

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Well, folks, your Congress is at it again. Republicans have been talking about debt and deficit for the last year, and here we're going to add nearly \$200 billion in new spending to the deficit. Well, we're going to use a bunch of pay-fors that we're setting aside for the original deficit.

This is the most disingenuous group of folks that I've seen in a long time; and to be honest, a little bit on our side of the aisle. We've been railing about doing anything that would re-

motely affect Social Security, yet we're willing to pass another payroll tax cut that adds to the difficulty of funding our system.

Oh, no. We're going to issue some IOUs. I don't think there is a single American out there that believes that another IOU is a good thing for Social Security. We have got to stop borrowing against our Social Security.

Not only that, the payroll tax, you get only 60 cents back for every dollar you invest. I don't think that's a very good investment. President Bush tried that in 2008, and there was no change in consumption.

What we should be doing is focusing on unemployment, where you get \$1.60 back in economic activity for every dollar you put in, just like the President asked for. And we should have a more robust doc fix that makes sure seniors and doctors get paid what they need to keep Medicare solvent.

THE MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Last night the House passed jobs bill number 28 that is now awaiting action from President Obama and the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act will protect American workers from higher taxes while ensuring that resources are not taken from the Social Security trust fund to pay for this relief. Most importantly, this legislation includes a measure that will support the creation of more than 100,000 new American jobs by expediting the creation of the Keystone XL energy pipeline.

This Christmas season, Congress and the President have the opportunity to give the American people the gift of jobs and tax relief that they need without spending more money that we do not have.

It is time for President Obama to live up to his own rhetoric of "we can't wait" and put partisan politics aside and get Americans back to work.

THE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN HERITAGE IN TURKEY

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report that the ancient Christian heritage in Turkey is being threatened with extinction.

When a government compromises the right of its citizens to peaceably assemble, the right of expression, and the right of independent thought, the people of such a country are not fully free. When a government takes the property of citizens without just compensation and due process of law, the people of that country are not free. And when a